Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (New): A method for communicating information representative of a number of spreading codes allocated to at least one mobile station in communication with a base station of a mobile telecommunication system, comprising:

selecting one or more midambles from a set of available midambles in accordance with a value of a binary element of a binary word representative of said number, wherein said available midambles are shifted versions of a basic midamble; and

transmitting the selected one or more midambles as being representative of said binary word.

Claim 3 (New): The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

summing the selected one or more midambles prior to transmission.

Claim 4 (New): The method according to claim 2, wherein:

at least a subset of bits of said binary word represents a state corresponding to said number of allocated spreading codes.

Claim 5 (New): The method according to claim 4, wherein:

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a binary value of said state corresponds to said number of allocated spreading codes.

Claim 6 (New): The method according to claim 4, wherein:

a position of a bit of said binary word corresponds to said number of spreading codes.

Claim 7 (New): The method according to claim 4, wherein:

a binary value of said state corresponds to a group of numbers of allocated spreading codes.

Claim 8 (New): The method according to claim 2, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting over multiple channels, wherein:

for each channel, said binary word represents a state corresponding to said number of allocated spreading codes.

Claim 9 (New): The method according to claim 8, wherein:

a binary value of said state corresponds to said number of allocated spreading codes.

Claim 10 (New): The method according to claim 8, wherein:

a position of an Nth bit of said binary word corresponds to said number of spreading codes.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claim 8, wherein:

a binary value of said state corresponds to a group of numbers of allocated spreading codes.

Claim 12 (New): The method according to claim 2, wherein:

each of said available midambles is associated with a corresponding binary element of said binary word, and

said step of selecting one or more midambles comprises:

selecting a midamble if said corresponding binary element is equal to a first value, and

not selecting a midamble if said corresponding binary element is equal to a second value.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein:

a binary value of said state corresponds to said number of allocated spreading codes.

Claim 14 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein:

a position of a bit of said binary word corresponds to said number of spreading codes.

Claim 15 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein:

a binary value of said state corresponds to a group of numbers of allocated spreading codes.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

correlating a received midamble, at said at least one mobile station, with a sequence based on said basic midamble code; and

forming a received binary word representative of said number of spreading codes, a value of a binary element of said received binary word being determined from one of the presence and the absence of a channel estimation at a temporal position in the correlation result.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein:

said binary element of said received binary word corresponds to said temporal position in said correlation result.

Claim 18 (New): The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

correlating a received midamble with a sequence based on said basic midamble code at said at least one mobile station; and

forming a received binary word representative of said number of spreading codes, a value of a binary element of said received binary word being determined from one of the presence and the absence of a channel estimation at a temporal position in the correlation result.

Claim 19 (New): The method according to claim 18, wherein:

said binary element of said received binary word corresponds to said temporal position in said correlation result.

Claim 20 (New): A base station for a mobile telecommunication system, said base station configured to select one or more midambles from a set of available midambles in accordance with a value of a binary element of a binary word representative of a number of spreading codes allocated to at least one mobile station in communication with said base station, wherein said available midambles are shifted versions of a basic midamble, said base station further configured to transmit the selected one or more midambles as being representative of said binary word.

Claim 21 (New): A mobile telecommunication system comprising:

a base station; and

at least one mobile station in communication with the base station, wherein the base station is configured to select one or more midambles from a set of available midambles in accordance with a value of a binary element of a binary word representative of a number of spreading codes allocated to the at least one mobile station, wherein said available midambles are shifted versions of a basic midamble, said base station further configured to transmit the selected one or more midambles as being representative of said binary word.

Claim 22 (New): A mobile station for a mobile telecommunication system, wherein the mobile station is configured to receive one or more midambles transmitted from a base station in communication with the mobile station, to correlate the received one or more midambles with a sequence based on a basic midamble code, and to form a received binary word representative of a number of spreading codes allocated to at least one mobile station in communication with said base station, wherein

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a value of a binary element of said received binary word is determined from one of

the presence and the absence of a channel estimation at a temporal position in the correlation

result, and

said one or more midambles transmitted from said base station is selected from a set

of available midambles in accordance with a value of a binary element of a binary word

representative of said number of spreading codes, and said available midambles are shifted

versions of said basic midamble.